

NOTES

M. COURTENAY-LATIMER
EAST LONDON MUSEUM.

Two rare seal records
for South Africa

On the 15th September, 1946, Mr. Clem Gibbard brought in an animal which he stated had been found on the beach at Paarde Kraal, fourteen miles north-east of East London. This specimen was identified as a Female Leopard Seal, *Ogmorhinus leptonyx*. It was mounted and is on exhibition in the East London Museum.

These seals are known to inhabit the Antarctic where they occur usually alone on the pack ice. This exhibit is possibly one of the few of this animal anywhere in the world.

On the 22nd July, 1957, Mr. Searle of Anglers Inn at Hamburg informed us that a quaint animal had been found on the beach, which proved to be a Female Crab-eating Seal, *Lobodon carcinophaga*. These seals also inhabit the Antarctic and are found on the pack ice in small parties.

Both these specimens were the first to have been recorded in South Africa, and it is interesting to know that specimens of this nature do occur on our coasts. As far as can be ascertained they are the only specimens of their kind in any Museum in South Africa. Many rare animals must be lost to the scientific world through people who do not take the trouble to report finds to the nearest museum.